

REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement

IT'S OUR EDUCATION FIGHT TO WIN



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We can win!

By John

THE TORIES were shaken by the huge demonstration of 50,000 school, college and university students and teachers who took to the streets in defence of education on 10.11.

What scared them still more was that the occupation of the Tory HQ, with 5,000 people gathered outside in support despite the best efforts of NUS stewards. It was their worst nightmare come true.

They know that they are now facing the fury of an entire generation enraged by the cuts, enraged by unemployment, enraged by the rich who want to make us pay for a crisis we did nothing to cause.

They now know that we are determined to fight, and determined to win - to stop the cuts, stop the fees, and save EMA by any means necessary.

And they know that this is "just the beginning" as protesters on 10.11 told the media. As we go to press, the National Union of Teachers have pledged their sup-

port for the mass wave of walkouts that are taking place across the country. They are planning national strike action in the new year, and in some schools, teachers have allowed assemblies to take place publicising the walkouts. When they go on strike, they know that we will be on their picket lines in our thousands to support them.

Branches of the National Union of Journalists - who recently took strike action over pensions cuts in the BBC - have passed a motion against the right-wing media witch-hunt of the Millbank protesters, urging members to use all legal means to resist handing over photographs, video footage, and personal sources to the police.

At many colleges and universities, lecturers have given their support to student protesters.

Young people have shown a lead - to the public sector workers, 500,000 of

whom will lose jobs because of this government's cuts. We have shown a lead to hundreds of thousands who will lose their homes due to housing benefit changes, and the slashing of the welfare state. We have shown a lead to millions of people across the country who wanted to fight but were not sure how. Now they know.

This has become more than a fight over education, and this makes the Tories tremble. This is a fight for the millions, against the millionaires who are making ordinary people (those of us who didn't study at Eton) pay for a crisis of their system - capitalism.

We need to build a movement of workers and young people united. With our radicalism, combined with the immense power of the trade unions, we can smash these cuts - by working towards a general strike to bring down this rotten government and the capitalist system it represents.

One solution - REVOLUTION!



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*** ONE WORLD * ONE BATTLE ***

Defend the protestors! Stop the media witchhunt!

By Mark

REVOLUTION has received massive coverage since the 10 November demonstration. Not only were REVOLUTION members on the roof of Millbank waving flags and banners and occupying the lobby, we apparently organised the whole thing!

The Evening Standard ran an "expose" on Luke Cooper, a REVOLUTION member at Sussex Uni who they accused of planning the "attack" on Tory HQ. What did they base this on? The fact he gave them an interview after the protest and said that direct action had been considered in advance.

The Daily Mail also got in on the act, reporting Luke's words and saying that Revolution was "...a group of young activists who are fed up with unemployment, war, poverty, cuts and capitalism. We want to bring down Cam and Clegg's millionaire coalition and replace it with socialism."

Too true! But that was about the only honest thing in the papers. The right-wing media launched a vicious witchhunt of protestors after the demonstration at Millbank. A campaign of lies and slanders has been orchestrated to try and drive a wedge between students and the rest of the working-class. Firstly the violence was blamed on a "rogue minority", when in fact thou-



sands of students were at Millbank and supported the occupation.

Then they claimed that the occupation was the work of anarchists and "professional agitators" (like Revolution!) who planned all the action in advance. This again was a lie, Revolution and other activists did plan direct action, but not against the Tory party HQ. What happened on the day was a spontaneous outpouring of anger by thousands of working-class students.

The media slanders continued, with the Daily Mail trying to paint most protestors as "middle-class" and not having experienced any "hardship or disadvantage". To prove this they published profiles of a couple of students from middle or upper-class backgrounds who joined the protest. So what? The vast majority of students on the demo were working-class, and anyway,

those who were middle or upper class have just as much right to defend their right to education as working-class students.

The worst actions were the publishing of numerous photos of student protestors by the Telegraph and Daily Mail in an effort to identify the "violent" protestors. These photos in the national press were used to find names and addresses and track down students who were involved in the violence. Over 63 students have now been arrested following the protest.

Revolution stands completely on the side of the student protestors. No one should be victimised or prosecuted for their part in the protest. It was a legitimate protest against the government's vicious attacks on education and the welfare state.

Students need to stand together. Those who are arrested should plead not guilty, and use their trials to highlight the massive injustice of the government's cuts. The damage to society caused by the cuts will make the damage caused at Millbank pale into comparison.

The anti-cuts movement must show solidarity with the protestors, organising demonstrations and protests at the courts when they are tried.

Bury colleges - How we built the mass walkout

By Helen

AFTER the day of action and walkouts was called by REVOLUTION at a London meeting of the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts, we began to organise a walkout at colleges in Bury, near Bolton.

Three REVOLUTION members from Bury college have been building for months and with the support of hundreds of students, it has so far been a success.

REVOLUTION linked up with students from other colleges in the area, such as Holy Cross, to make sure the walkout was a massive success - and that we can be united against the cuts and the axing of EMA.

We have endlessly petitioned at the college, handed out leaflets and spoken to classes. We've spoken people around the

town to make them aware of what is happening - and what these cuts will do to working class college students.

Memos have been put into the college bulletin to inform each and every tutor group about the walkout, and we had a meeting with the staff union to spread the word to workers at the college too.

At the time of writing, eight-hundred students from Bury have joined our facebook event for the walkout. And we are organising a team of college students to steward the demonstration, in case of police repression.

This is still only the beginning, and now we know what is possible we won't stop - until the Tories, and their vicious cuts are defeated once and for all.

Save EMA!

EVEN THE TORIES said they wouldn't touch EMA when they were standing for election in Spring.

The now Education Minister Michael Gove said clearly: "Ed Balls [Labour MP] keeps saying that we are committed to scrapping the EMA. I have never said this. We won't."

But guess what? He lied! (You will notice that lying is a recurring theme in this magazine when we talk about the Con-Dem government).

A poll by the National Union of Students said that 60% of students would not be able to continue learning without the £30 per week benefit.

We must fight with walkouts, occupations and direct action to save our EMA.

Building the movement

By John & Simon

THE HUGE and militant demonstration of 50,000 school, college, university students and education workers on 10 November 2010 which took over central London for a day and occupied Millbank sent a powerful message to millions of people suffering cuts all over the country. We can fight and we can win! The question is "how?"

When millions of people are inspired to take politics into their own hands, when those who seemed not to care about politics become radicalised and when the power of millions is unleashed - anything seems possible.

And it is. The Tory politicians and their millionaire friends - the capitalists who want

**WE WILL
MARCH
10.11.10**

to make ordinary people pay for the economic crisis, through vicious cuts to jobs, services and welfare - make up a tiny handful of people in society. The millionaires will always be scared that the millions will rise up and take back what is rightfully ours. Right now they are petrified. That's why there was such scaremongering in the media.

But whilst the super-rich in society might be a tiny minority compared to the rest of us, they are a powerful minority. We need the right tactics, and the right strategy to beat them. This is our guide to taking the student movement forward, a movement which must consider its self as an integral part of trade union and working class resistance gaining momentum across the country.

Keep the action coming

We need to pile every ounce of pressure we have on the government before they vote to scrap EMA, make huge cuts and introduce £9,000 fees - parliament want to do this before Christmas. But the National Union of Students (NUS) leadership has shrunk back from calling for more action and more

protests after the 10 November demonstration.

Their tactic before the general election was to get MPs, mostly Lib Dems to sign a pledge not to raise tuition fees - a pledge that they broke. But now they are resurrecting the "vote for students" campaign back from the dead - with a new campaign called "right to recall." Lib Dems promised to bring in new legislation allowing people the right to recall their MPs - but guess what? They lied! So now the NUS 'strategy' is based on asking MPs to give up their jobs by writing strongly worded letters to them.

This won't work. Students, NUS members, and local student unions, as well as different caucus groups in the NUS need to demand that the NUS leadership ditches "right to recall" and calls for more days of action, national and regional protests, and supports student action against the Browne Review like sit-ins, occupations, and other direct actions.

Next time elections come up, be it at student union level or NUS level, anti-cuts and anti-fees activists need to stand for election. If leaders like NUS President Aaron Porter won't fight, we need to replace them with people who will - and as soon as we can.

Build struggle from below

But don't rely on the NUS leadership to fight - Aaron Porter condemned the occupation of Millbank as "despicable", and said that the 10 November protest was "hijacked". Aaron Porter told student union officers that the day of action on 24 November was "a risk to our wider objectives."

In fact actions like these are what we need to stop the fees and cuts going through - and whilst the right-wing media and NUS leaders condemn the attack on the Millbank tower as violent, we need to be clear. The real violence in society comes from the Tory government attack over a million jobs, forcing people out of their homes, creating poverty and denying working class people access to education, whilst occupying Afghanistan, and killing, torturing, the people who live there.

We need meetings that can organise the type of action we need to stop these cuts - with the NUS where possible, but without and against them where necessary.



REVOLUTION calls for anti-cuts, anti-fees groups in every school, college and university in the country. They should have political discussion on the events of the week, discuss strategy and tactics and plan action.

Build General Assemblies

The strength of the 10 November demonstration was that it brought school, college and university students together.

We need to continue to organise joint action together, like we did with the 24 November protests. General Assemblies - mass meetings - should be built in every town and city - bringing together delegates from every school, college and university - staff as well as students. They should bring together all the different education campaigns like National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts, Education Activists Network and Youth Fight for Jobs, as well as political groups like REVOLUTION, Workers Power, the Socialist Workers Party, and Labour Party activists.

This can be the start of a genuine democratic movement.

Every town and city needs general assem-

to smash fees and cuts

blies to co-ordinate the action. These can bring together delegates from all kinds of organisations and particular struggles and unite them into a powerful movement. At these meetings we can debate strategy, tactics, slogans and demands, creating a free and democratic space where the movements goals and methods of struggle can be hammered out.

General Assemblies can take votes on the course of action. Decisions can be taken back by all the delegates to their local groups - and if the NUS leadership don't like the outcome of the meetings, then we can act without them or even campaign for their removal.

We need more days of action, more walk-outs and protests. The resistance must be continuous until the government halts its attacks.

REVOLUTION is arguing for a national general assembly - with delegates from all over the country to unite all the student campaigns into a national movement which can smash the government's offensive against education.

Defend our right to protest



The police were caught unprepared by the protest and Millbank occupation. They are using the action that took place to launch a witch-hunt against activists and they arrested many who peacefully protested in the building.

They are using the actions that took place at Millbank as a means of arguing for more overtime pay, more officers and better



equipment - and to be allowed to use more heavy-handed tactics.

At the G20 protests last year, police went too far. They 'kettled' protesters and journalists alike for hours - leaving them without food, water and toilet facilities. They even beat and killed a local shop assistant Ian Tomlinson who was not part of the protest - and killed him. That's why they were relatively soft at Millbank, but now with the right-wing media on their side they will be out to get student protesters.

Some argue that we just need bigger demonstrations to stop police violence - but bigger demonstrations alone won't stop police violence. If we want to build a truly enormous movement to stop these cuts, everyone needs to be sure that they will be defended from wrongful arrest and illegal violence.

That's why every demonstration and protest we organise - even if it is at your local school and college needs a steward defence corps. They should be elected before every protest and should meet before hand to plan how they will organise. They need to train in keeping a crowd together, linking arms to prevent wrongful arrest, and using basic self-defence against illegal police violence. They should have a well organised chain of command, and be able to make immediate tactical decision on the route of a march, when to start, when to stop and when to disperse.

We can win! Paris, London, Rome, Dublin!

Students in Britain aren't the only ones fighting for their future. Youth in France recently took part in a mass movement, along with workers from all section of industry against changes to the pension system - that would leave young people jobless whilst their grandparents were forced to work.

In Austria, Germany, Italy and many

more countries across Europe there are student struggles fighting against cuts, fees and the marketisation of education which is being imposed by joint initiative of European leaders called the Bologna process.

Because it is the capitalists and the rich who are carrying out this international attack across the world - REVOLUTION fights for a revolutionary youth international to link up and coordinate the struggles of every country, call international protests and overthrow the very system its self that oppresses us - capitalism in every country.

Build an indefinite general strike

Protests by students and youth alone won't be able to stop the attacks on education by themselves - but they can radicalise workers across the country whose jobs are at risk, who are having their pay and benefits cuts back and who are being made to work for longer.

Students should invite trade union members to their meetings and help workers when they take action too - by holding mass meetings and inviting speakers, organising support networks and coming on their picket lines to show solidarity.

We need to show education unions like the UCU and NUT that if they go on strike to save education, their students will support them.

We call for strike action to be coordinated, for the trade unions to bring forward their claims, and organise their actions to coincide on the same days.

Ultimately we need an indefinite general strike to bring this rotten government. REVOLUTION is clear that only the immense force of the whole working class movement can defeat the government's massive cuts package - but in this struggle, students and youth can - and are playing a central role.

May '68, the great student revolt – with eyewitness Dave Stockton

By Simon

A MASS movement of students, youth and workers took place in May 1968.

Involved in huge occupations and gigantic protests, they challenged not only the US government's brutal war in Vietnam, but also the authority of their own governments to rule.

In France, the President fled the country to talk to his army generals, fearing revolution.

In the USA, radical groups like the Black Panthers challenged racism against black people – demanding the right to defend themselves against a violent state machine.

Britain saw a huge movement too – so **REVOLUTION** decided to interview May '68 veteran Dave Stockton, who was a radical university student at the time.

What caused the rebellion in 1968?

The main inspiration came from the ongoing Vietnam War; the horrific bombing of North Vietnam by B52s. The US antiwar movement was our inspiration. On April 15, 1967 400,000 people marched in New York and hundreds of thousands in the autumn too. Sit-ins and teach-ins took place in campuses across the US.

Then in May came the French student uprising and the “night of the barricades” (May 10-11). We sat up all night listening to the French radio whose reporters were describing in great detail the clouds of tear gas and volleys of Molotov cocktails. Then, amazingly, came the 10 million strong general strike lasting into June. All this expanded British students' horizons to the evils of capitalism, the possibility of revolution and the need for what we called a “student-worker alliance.”

What did students do in Britain?

In October 1967 there was already the first big demo in London around 20,000 strong. Many students but also young workers took part. This demo turned into the first “Grosvenor Square riot” outside the US Embassy. It was a really fierce battle between demonstrators armed only with placards and banner poles and mounted police using their long truncheons.

Whilst sheltering in a doorway from a full-scale cavalry charge, I met a veteran



Protesters attempt to storm the US embassy in London, 1968

of the Hunger Marches from the 1930s. He told us how the west London factory workers brought pockets full of ball bearings to throw under the hooves of the police horses!

Then there was another attempt to storm the embassy in March 17 1968 with two or three times the numbers involved. In October 1968 there was a huge 200,000-plus march which went to Hyde Park and was largely peaceful.

It wasn't just about war, we wanted to defend education against marketisation – though in those days education was free and we got grants to help us learn. It was a fight against the control of students' everyday lives – curfews, strict separation of the sexes, the universities claiming parental authority over us, plus anger at biased anti-communist teaching.

Most universities were occupied – and by massive numbers – in the Spring-Summer and then again in the autumn and well into 1969. There were increasing demands for students and workers control of the education system.

What happened at your university?

I was at Cambridge till summer 68. We had virtually monthly demos and weekly smaller events. One demo turned into a full scale riot, a small version of Grosvenor Square, when Denis Healey the British Labour Party minister of Defence and an enthusiastic

supporter of the US war, came to speak. Myself and dozens of others were arrested and charged with breach of the peace.

I also remember a mass invasion of the huge US Air force base at Lakenheath where we marched around the barrack blocks with red flags. We held a huge teach-in with all sorts of radical academics and Marxists, anarchists etc. Then I went to Keele University where we were able to link up with workers protesting against the Labour Governments first attempt at anti-union laws.

What advice would you give students today who are fighting cuts?

You started brilliantly on November 10, and the 24 November walkouts are a great follow-up. Now is the time to hold mass meetings in the colleges and the schools to expose the scale of the cuts and the need to fight back, and to expose capitalism as the root cause of the problems we face today.

You can inspire everyone who is suffering from the cuts: public sector workers who run our vital services, but also private sector workers who depend on them. Make links with the unions – invite workers to speak.

Nothing less than mass action on the scale of these events will halt the destruction of education health and welfare systems. You started brilliantly – carry on the struggle – “La Lutte Continue!” as they said in France in 68.

What is violence?

By Rix

AFTER THE occupation of Millbank, the right wing media and politicians responded with a hysterical campaign claiming violence is undemocratic, un-British and unjustifiable. But they are wrong on all counts.

Firstly when we talk about 'violence' we are really looking at direct action and force. The politicians and right wing media hacks who have been screaming that violence (force) has no place in British democracy need a good lesson in history - not least because they are the ones who use it most.

The history of British democracy is one long struggle of the oppressed against their oppressors, starting with the supremacy of parliament over an unelected monarch that was won with a bloody and violent civil war and the forceful removal of Charles I head. This was followed by the struggle for the right to vote to be extended to people other than the landowning rich - which saw mass riots across the country esca-

lating to a general strike and near revolution, which finally forced the ruling class to back down. Later on the suffragette movement utilised violent tactics such as occupations, runs on parliament and yes; the breaking of windows, to win the right to vote.

However this isn't just a matter of history, the struggle continues to this day. When the elected government breaks its pledges, when it goes out to attack the majority of the country's population by cutting the services they depend on, forcing millions on to the dole, for the benefit of a tiny, unrepresentative minority of the super rich then it becomes obvious that real democracy doesn't yet exist. People realise that they have a right to force the government to listen to them be that through occupations, pickets or other forms of direct action.

Today as in the past though when people start to stand up for their rights and go on strike, occupy factories or government

buildings or blockade streets the ruling class will send in their private army to smash up the resistance - the police. When peaceful shows of force such as pickets, blockades, occupations or even simple marches are attacked we have every right to physically defend ourselves and our movement from the baton wielding arm of the capitalist state.

As revolutionaries we recognise that throughout history all major questions of power are, in the end, resolved by force. The capitalists will never allow the peaceful reform of society into one where the needs of the masses, not profit, is the driving force behind production because it means they will lose their privileged lifestyles.

Any attempt to get rid of the capitalists and their rotten system once and for all will come under massive, violent attack from the state. When this happens, passivism is not an option - that is why we are revolutionary socialists.

Who is Aaron Porter?

By Billy

IT TOOK a whole year of teaching staff losing their jobs, and courses being cut back and shut down for National Union of Students (NUS) President Aaron Porter to finally call a national demo against tuition fees hikes and cuts under pressure from the student movement.

But now he is back-peddling, unwilling to call another, and focussing on writing letters to MP's instead. Unfortunately, people like him reached the top levels of the NUS, not who to fight for the interests of students, but to embark on the now preferred career track of Labour Ministers.

Now, after the occupation of Millbank Tower, he has exposed himself as a sickening coward who tripped over himself to condemn the students who did what was necessary to inspire millions across the country with the bravery they showed at the Tory HQ.

Having seen his members humiliate the Tories, President Porter joined Tory London Mayor Boris Johnson, to be



DESPICABLE

among the first to condemn the Millbank protesters and what he called their 'despicable actions'.

He then went on to Newsnight, collectively slandering all who took part by focusing his ire on the single idiotic action that saw a fire extinguisher thrown off the Millbank roof. But the truth is that the real

violence comes from a murderous government which is kicking people out of their homes by cutting housing benefit, removing the benefits of 6% of all unemployed people per month ahead of a winter that will see thousands die in cold poverty and sacking a million workers from their jobs.

Even if we take Porter on face value as the fresh faced new NUS President who mobilised in good faith for the biggest student march in decades and only told off the naughty guests at his party, it's clear to see his strategy is missing something.

For many of the 5000 protesters who stormed the Tory HQ and gathered outside it was their first demonstration - this was no "rogue minority". And just like Porter they realised that if you want to get along, you've got to make the right noises. Pity that the NUS President is making the right noises to go the wrong way, selling out the most determined fighters of a new movement for the price of a few Tory windows.

Build a revolutionary youth movement!

By John

IT'S A TELLING thing that young people are once again the first to rebel en masse when a fightback is needed.

With 500,000 public sectors workers losing their jobs, and another million job losses expected in private business as a result of the cuts - let alone cuts to disabled people, legal aid, housing, local councils, you name it, there's plenty of reason for everyone in Britain to be angry.

But everyone knows the real fightback really started on 10 November with the National Union of Students' "Demo-lition" protest, which ended up with the occupation of the much-hated Tory party HQ by thousands of school, college and university students.

This has happened before. On "day X", in 2003, when a brutal war with Iraq was declared, thousands of students in many towns and cities across Britain staged walkouts - blocking roads and traffic, taking part in direct action, D-locking petrol pumps, blaming big oil corporations for the war.

There are many reasons for rebellion - it's because we are systematically oppressed by the capitalist system in a way that our parents are not.

We are at the bottom of the pile when we apply for jobs, and when we get them they are often badly paid, un-unionised and temporary so we can get sacked at any time. We often have to live at home and, despite what are often their best intentions, our parents tell us what we are allowed to do, when, if we are allowed to do it, and what is "acceptable under this roof." In short, we have less freedom, and a lot more reason to rebel.

When slimy politicians lie to us to get elected, and break their promises, we don't accept it as the way things are. We recognise that we are the future and that it is our duty to challenge it.

We recognise that we need the mass of the working class to fight for revolution, but in the struggle for socialism young people always have, and always will play an essential role.

REVOLUTION is building an international revolutionary youth movement aimed at organising young people to fight for socialism - against inequality, racism, sexism, poverty and exploitation, and we organise across the world - from Britain to Germany to Pakistan to Sri Lanka. Take part in the fight for REVOLUTION and against this rotten system by joining us today!

Smashing windows won women the vote?

By Rachel



OK, so this isn't the whole story, but it's absolutely true that the smashing of windows was a key component of the suffragettes' campaign for women to be allowed to take part in elections.

There were regular marches to parliament by the women suffrage campaigners, and the more militant women - organised in the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) - broke glass to air their discontent.

On 21 November, 1911, WSPU members did not take part in the regular London march, and instead armed themselves with stones and hammers. They smashed windows at many buildings including: the Home Office, the Treasury, Somerset House, two hotels - and best of all - the Daily Mail HQ.

Emily Pankhurst, leader of the WSPU said: "the argument of the broken pane of glass is the most valuable argument in modern politics."

We're not in complete agreement, but on the other hand, they did eventually win!

Join



Revolution is an international socialist youth organisation. We are a group of young activists who are fed up with unemployment, war, poverty, cuts and capitalism. We want to bring down Cameron and Clegg's millionaire coalition and replace it with socialism. The rich and powerful clique responsible for breaking up our public services, slashing benefits and leaving millions of us on the dole will not give up their wealth and property by being voted out. They are launching a class war to make youth and workers pay the cost of capitalism's crisis. We want to seize their assets and abolish class society with a socialist revolution. This is what we are fighting for.

socialistrevolution.org

Come along to:

RALLY FOR REVOLUTION

Friday 26 Nov, 5pm

Central London, see our website for details

- Building a movement that can smash fees and cuts, and save EMA
- Why capitalism is the problem - building a revolutionary youth movement